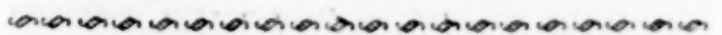
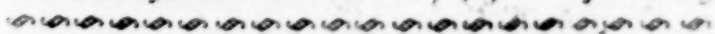


THE Christian History;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival
of Religion in *England Scotland and America.*



Saturday AUGUST 20. 1743. § N^o. 25.



The Remainder of Mr. PARKER's Attestation.

I Am of Opinion that Mr. *Edwards* has given a *faithful Account of the good Work* going on in the Land in his Book intituled, *Some Thoughts concerning the present Revival of Religion in NEW-ENGLAND:* and well observes that such as reject *such a Work as he has described*, as not being *the Work of GOD*, must reject *the Bible*, not only in some particular Passages but in the Substance of it. Page 60, 61. And I think he has *impartially considered* those Things of a *bad Tendency* which attend the present Work of GOD, and which need to be *corrected and avoided.*

I have no more to add but my sincere Prayer, that all Christ's Ministers who may *convene on this great Occasion*, may enjoy much of the divine Presence, and be directed to bear such a TESTIMONY for GOD in this remarkable Day of his Grace, as that (by the Blessing of Heaven) it may serve to convince *Gain-sayers*, and to fill both the *Hearts and Mouths* of his Saints with *Praise and Thanksgiving* for the great and good Things which GOD is doing for this People.

I beg Leave to subscribe your Brother in the Work of the Gospel, and humble Servant,

Jonathan Parker.

No. III. *From the Rev. Mr. MCGREGORE, Pastor of the second Church in Londonderry, in the Province of NEW-HAMPSHIRE.*

IT was with no small Satisfaction that I heard of such a Number of Ministers meeting in *Boston* the 7th Instant, in order to give a UNITED TESTIMONY to that glorious Work of
B B GOD!

GOD's Power and Grace with which he has been graciously visiting our Land.

Tho' my Attendance at the *Convention* had been but of small Consequence, yet I should gladly have gone there to contribute my Mite, had not a long Journey *Eastward* prevented me, to the Prosecution of which I was under a previous indispensable Obligation.

As to the *remarkable religious Appearances* that have been in various Parts of our Land *these two or three Years last by gone*; after the most deliberate and impartial Inquiry I have been capable of making, endeavouring to give every Thing its due Weight in the Ballances of the Sanctuary, I have long ago come to the following Conclusion, in which I am daily more and more confirm'd; viz.

That as far as my personal Knowledge has reach'd, *I look upon these religious Appearances in the general to be the HAPPY EFFECTS of DIVINE INFLUENCE.* I have had an Opportunity of being personally and particularly acquainted with a great Number of those who have been the Subjects of religious Concern in this acceptable Year of the Lord: And when I hear them declare what they have experienced on their own Souls with Respect to *Conviction, Humiliation, Illumination of the Mind in the Knowledge of CHRIST,* together with a happy consequent Change they experience in the *Will and Affections,* and withal observe the Correspondency of their *Lives* with their profess'd Experiences; I am unavoidably led to conclude, in a Judgment of Charity of many of them, that they have really undergone a *saving Change.* I have long observed a remarkable Uniformity in the main Strokes of their spiritual Concern. And more lately have noticed with particular Pleasure, a great Thirst after Doctrinal Knowledge, a greater Insight into their own Hearts, and a Love growing more and more in Knowledge and in all Judgment.

As to Errors in Doctrines or Disorders and Extravagancies in Practice that any who have been the Subjects of the late religious Concern may have fallen into; I am humbly of Opinion that these, if such there be, ought neither to be winked at, nor represented through a Microscope, but proper Testimony should be born against them. Yet in the mean Time I think they should not be represented ten fold greater than they really are, and by this Means the Glory of GOD's Work obscured under a Cloud of imaginary Errors and Disorders. For my

own Part I have seen *little or no Appearance* of the Growth of *Antinomian Errors*, or any Thing *visionary* or *enthusiastick*, either in *mine own Congregation* or among the People in the *Neighbourhood* where I live. Indeed if asserting Justification by Faith alone, and Denying it by the Law as a Covenant of Works, while the eternal Obligation of the Law as a Rule of Life, is strongly maintained in Practice as well as Profession, if this (I say) be *Antinomian Doctrine*; then we have a great Growth of *Antinomianism*. Again, if asserting the Necessity of supernatural Influence or divine Energy in Conversion, or, the Reality of the immediate witnessing and sealing of the SPIRIT be *Enthusiasm*; then we have a remarkable Spread of *Enthusiasm*: And in *these Senses* may *Antinomianism* and *Enthusiasm* grow more and more till they overspread the whole Land.

If you apprehend that the Publication of this Letter, or any Part of it, will be of Service to the *glorious Work of GOD*; I am willing you should make that Use of it. The Substance thereof being what I trust (through divine Assistance) I shall always adhere to, and never be ashamed of.

I subscribe with great Respect, one of the meaneest of your
Fellow-Labourers in the Vineyard of our common Lord,
David Mc Gregor.

Londonderry, July 19th. 1743.

No. IV. *From twelve Rev. Pastors of Churches in CON-*
NECTICUT COLONY.

Norwich, June 23. 1743.

WE the Subscribers, Ministers of the Gospel, in (and in the Neighbourhood of) this Town, being occasionally met here, have just had a Sight of a Paragraph in the *Weekly Post-Boy* of the 30th of May last, wherein it is propos'd by a Number of Ministers, that such of their Brethren as are persuaded there has been of late, an *happy Revival of Religion in many Parts of the Land*, might have an *Interview at Boston* the Day after the Commencement approaching, and desire that those who may be hindred in Providence, from giving their Presence at the design'd Interview, wou'd send their **ATTESTATIONS** and communicate their Thoughts seasonably in Writing.

Since we are not like to be at the propos'd *Interview*, we take this Opportunity to signify to you that, for our own Parts we are abundantly satisfied that there has of late, for *about three Years past*, been a *great and wonderful Revival of Religion in the several Places to which we minister*, and in *divers others which we are acquainted with*; wherein, *through the mighty Power and Grace of GOD*, great Numbers of Persons of all Sorts, but *especially young People*, have been greatly awak-
ned, deeply convinc'd of Sin; and many, as far as we can judge upon careful Observation and Examination, truly *humbled* at the Foot of a sovereign and righteous GOD, and *savingly brought to believe* on the Lord JESUS CHRIST for everlasting Life: and have since lived so as to give Credit and Confirmation to their Pretensions; and do now *adorn their Profession in an humble and holy Life and Christian Conversation*; walking in the Fear and Love of GOD, and bringing forth Fruits meet for Repentance, in the Exercise of the Graces and Virtues of the Christian Life.

Although many who have made a Profession of Christianity and Conversion have run into *imprudent Things*, and discover'd much *spiritual Pride*, by rash, censorious Judgings, hasty Separations from their Ministers and Brethren, and some have embraced *wrong Notions and Principles* in Religion; (tho' there has been *little of that in the Places where we live*) yet we know of great Numbers who have been happily preserved from such Falls and Failings, and who carry themselves like the meek and humble Disciples of the blessed Jesus; and some who have been led astray through the Subtilty of *Satan*, have, by Grace, been *recover'd* and in a great Measure convinc'd of those Follies and Mistakes, and humbled for the Pride and Naughtiness of their Hearts. And all of a bad Tendency and Nature that we have seen does not give us *any Reason* to think that there has not been a *great and glorious Work of divine Grace* carried on among us, and a *great Reformation and Revival of Religion*; for which we desire to praise and adore the sovereign Mercy of GOD.

Our Time is now short, and we can't pretend to give a particular Account of the *Work of GOD* among our People, or of the *bad Things* which have been the Concomitants of *this blessed Work*; yet thus much we thought our selves oblig'd to say to the *Praise of divine Grace, and the Glory of*
him

*Him who is the Author of all Good, to whom be all
Glory, &c.* We are your Brethren, &c.

Joseph Meacham, *Pastor of the Church in Coventry.*
Benjamin Lord, *Pastor of the first Church in Norwich.*
Hezekiah Lord, *Pastor of a Church in Preston.*
Solomon Williams, *Pastor of the first Church in Lebanon.*
Daniel Kirtland, *Pastor of a Church in Norwich.*
Jabez Wight, *Pastor of a Church in Norwich.*
John Owen, *Pastor of the first Church in Groton.*
Samuel Moseley, *Pastor of a Church in Windham.*
Jonathan Parsons, *Pastor of the first Church in Lyme.*
Eleazer Wheelock, *Pastor of a Church in Lebanon.*
Benjamin Pomroy, *Pastor of the Church in Hebron.*
David Jewet, *Pastor of the 2d Church in New-London.*

THUS we have given our Readers the TESTIMONY and
ADVICE of the late ASSEMBLY of Pastors, with the AT-
TESTATIONS of 43 absent Pastors; as they were published by
the said Assembly's Committee: To which we may add that we
are informed by the Rev. Mr. PRINCE, one of the Scribes of
the said Assembly.

‘ That very few of the Ministers present in the late vene-
‘ rable Assembly complained of *Errors* or *Disorders* in the
‘ Congregations they belong’d to: That several declared they
‘ had had none from the *Beginning*; but, in the extraordinary
‘ Revival of Religion among their People, the Work had
‘ been carried on with great Seriousness and Regularity:
‘ That Others declared, that where there had been some Dis-
‘ orders and Mistakes at first in *some*, thro’ the great Num-
‘ bers suddenly and mightily awaken’d, the great Distress of
‘ some in their Convictions, the great Joy of others upon
‘ their laying Hold on CHRIST and finding a wondrous
‘ Change within them, the Frailties of some, and the Surprize
‘ of all; yet in a little while they saw and own’d their Mis-
‘ takes, came into a more settled Way of thinking, speaking
‘ and behaving, and the Disorders ceased; Declaring also
‘ that both Errors and Disorders had been greatly magnified
‘ and multiplied above what they really were in the Congre-
‘ gations they belong’d to: And that as far as they could
‘ learn the greatest Errors and Disorders were in those Places
‘ where

‘ where the Ministers opposed the Work, and thereby lost much of their Respect and Influence.

‘ To this may be added, That whereas several of the Rev. Pastors present in the said Assembly subscribed the *Testimony and Advice*, as to the *Substance*, others to the *Substance, Scope and End*; and others without Restriction: This seemed chiefly to arise from this particular Passage in the said Advice, viz. “ *That Ministers do not invade the Province of others, and in ordinary Cases preach in another’s Parish without his Knowledge and against his Consent.*” In which particular Article some of the Pastors thought that *Ministers and others preaching in other Ministers’ Parishes was not sufficiently testified against*. Other Pastors fear’d that this Article was in Danger of being construed and perverted to the great Infringement of Christian and Humane Liberty of Conscience. And other Pastors apprehended that this Article was sufficiently guarded by this Limitation to ORDINARY CASES: Leaving it to the serious Conscience both of Ministers and others to judge when the Cases are ordinary or not ordinary.

‘ And as *People of all Denominations and Opinions in the Christian World* reckon it lawful in many Cases for Ministers to preach in the Parishes of others without their Knowledge and against their Consent: Thus the Protestants preach in the Parishes of Papist Ministers in Hungary, and formerly in France; the Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists and Quakers in the Parishes of Episcopalian Ministers in England, Ireland, Virginia, and Carolina; the Episcopalians, Baptists and Quakers in the Parishes of Congregational Ministers in New-England; and this Liberty cannot be invaded or denied without inhumanly invading the essential Rights of Conscience: So it must be left to the serious Consciences both of Ministers and People: And in the free Exercise of Conscience they are doubtless to be indulged with great Tendernefs, Meeknefs and Forbearance; as every Man desires to be indulged in the Liberty of his own Conscience.

To the Attestations recited from the said Committee, we would add some others (communicated to us) from other Rev. Pastors both of this and the neighbouring Province, which may be look’d upon as a Continuation of the same Testimony.

No.

No. I. *From the Rev. Mr. BLUNT, Pastor of the Church in Newcastle, in the Province of NEW-HAMPSHIRE, to a Minister in Boston.*

Rev. Sir,

HAVING been confin'd by Sicknefs for some Weeks past I heard nothing of the Intention the Ministers had of convening at *Boston* on the 7th Instant, 'till the Day on which they convened.

I could heartily have joined with them in giving Testimony to what I have been long convinc'd is a great Display of GOD's Grace in this and several neighbouring Parishes, particularly at *York* and *Portsmouth*: And also in declaring against those Errors in Doctrine and Disorders in Practice that have been or may yet be prevailing to blemish or obstruct it in any Parts of the Land.

The Parish I am settled in is small; but GOD has I hope by the Influences of his gracious Spirit, made his Word and Ordinances effectual to the convincing and converting a considerable Number among us.

The Awakening in Months past was almost universal: Fear seem'd to fall on every Soul; and the great Enquiry was, *What shall I do to be saved?*

And altho' I have Reason to fear the Impressions are in a great Measure worn off from some; yet the lasting good Effects on many I think very considerable, and for which I desire to adore the rich and free Grace of GOD.

Fifty have been added to our Communion in about the Space of two Years; and most of them appear to have their Conversion as becometh the Gospel.

Some of those who were Professors before this remarkable Day of GOD's Visitation, have been of late much quickned and enlivened: And others, being convinced of their Formality in Times past, declare how they have felt the Power of GOD's Grace upon their Souls.

My Heart's Desire and Prayer to GOD is, that he would still more abundantly pour out his SPIRIT upon his People, and his Blessing on their Offspring; and that in Mercy he would heal the Divisions of Churches; and put an End to those Differences that have of late arisen, especially among the Ministers of GOD's Word; and that all who love our LORD JESUS in Sincerity may have their Hearts united, and their

their Hands strengthened to promote that Religion which is pure and undefiled before GOD and the FATHER. Desiring your Prayers for me who am less than the least of all Saints,

I am Rev. Sir, your unworthy Friend and Servant, in the Faith and Fellowship of the Gospel,

JOHN BLUNT.

New-Castle, in NEW-HAMPSHIRE,

July 26th. 1743.

No. II. From the Rev. Mr. RUGGLES, Pastor of the second Church in Middleborough, in the County of Plimouth, to a Minister in Boston.

Reverend and dear Sir,

Relating to the *Revival of Religion*, &c. I would give you this short and plain Account. As to the *Rise*; On the 13th of August in the Year 1741. we had in our Precinct a Day of Fasting and Prayer on these two Accounts, viz. 1. For the *Revival of Religion*, and 2. for *Rain*, it being a very dry Season. We invited in to our Help the Rev. Mr. Thacher of Middleborough, the Rev. Mr. Ruggles of Rochester, and the Rev. Mr. Wales of Raynham. The Day was attended with very great Solemnity; and the Answer was very remarkable, and we may say, as Isaiah 65. 24. *While they are yet speaking, I will hear.* For a very considerable Supply of *Rain* was sent us that Day. And as to the *Revival of Religion*; a wonderful *Seriousness* discovered in some that was more than common. I observed from that very Time there was an apparent Difference in Relation to Persons attending the publick Worship, and a greater *Regard* to the *Sanctification of the Sabbath*. Some Time after this, *Conversions* gradually proceeded, and openly evident: many of which I have all possible Reason to think ended in *sound Conversion*. A considerable Number among us joining themselves to the Church; their regular *Conversations* evidencing their *Sincerity*. As to the *Sorts of Persons*; I must say it was very much on young ones of both Sexes. Also some who before had profess'd themselves of contrary Opinions were now reclaimed and brought off: *Prayerless*, to be *prayerful* in their Families.

(To be continued.)